

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2011

The Honorable Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Building 1, Room 2217
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Re: Petition for Alternate Name for High Fructose Corn Syrup (FDA-2010-P-0491)

Dear Commissioner Hamburg,

We are writing to express our concern about a petition filed by the Corn Refiners Association (CRA) to change the name of "high fructose corn syrup" (HFCS) to "corn sugar." Our constituents who grow and/or process sugar cane and sugar beets strongly oppose the pending petition. This issue could adversely impact those farmers and refinery workers along with everyone else in our states who, after all, are consumers.

Years ago the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in response to a request from the corn refiners, established through regulation the longstanding name for this product, "high fructose corn syrup." It is the name by which consumers now identify HFCS as an ingredient in foods. Conversely, for hundreds of years "sugar" has been known to the public as the product of sugar beets or sugar cane, technically "sucrose." We are concerned that if FDA were to allow companies to change the name of HFCS to "corn sugar" on food labels, it would confuse consumers and mislead them into thinking that their food contains a different ingredient.

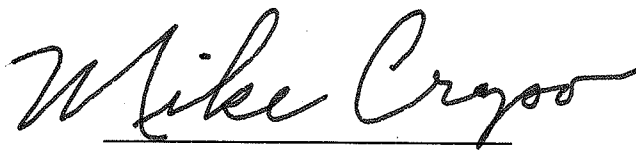
We urge you to follow FDA's science-based process for consumer protection and to maintain the integrity of the agency's food nomenclature system so that consumers are able to readily identify food ingredients. Please carefully consider whether the effort to rebrand HFCS to "corn sugar" meets those standards.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. Please keep us informed of any agency actions on this matter.

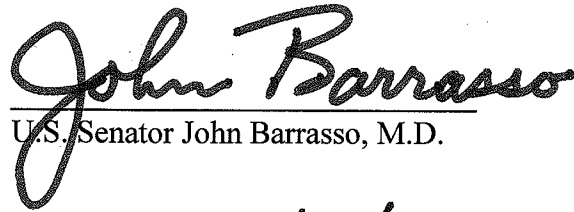
Sincerely,


U.S. Senator Michael B. Enzi

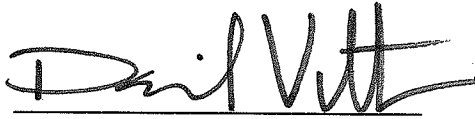

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson



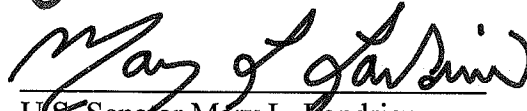
U.S. Senator Mike Crapo



U.S. Senator John Barrasso, M.D.



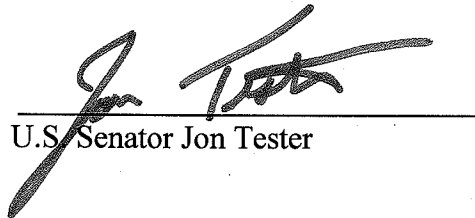
U.S. Senator David Vitter



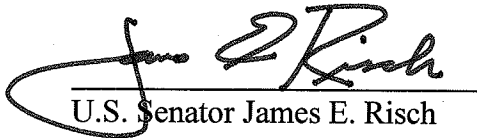
U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu



U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski



U.S. Senator Jon Tester



U.S. Senator James E. Risch